

(b) how many persons are employed in cultivating salt in these salt pans;

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to allot the land of these salt pans for low cost housing, for the resettlement of slum dwellers; and

(d) if so, the details in these regard and what are plans of the Ministry to resettle the workers working on these salt pans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The area of salt pan lands in district Mumbai and district Mumbai Suburban is 5378 acres. These lands are owned by the Government. However, in many cases where the Government had granted lease/license for manufacture of salt, licensees/lessees or their successors have claimed ownership rights over salt lands and there are several cases of ongoing litigations.

(b) Presently 437 labourers are engaged in the salt industry in the Bhandup, Trombay and Wadala salt factories in Mumbai.

(c) and (d) Though presently no proposal is under consideration for low cost housing, the Government had taken an 'in-principle' decision to use the salt pan lands to meet the bonafide needs of Government departments, to implement urban infrastructure projects and for other public purposes.

Multi-product SEZ near Visakhapatnam

728. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed a multi-product SEZ near Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the approval given for any SEZ in or near Visakhapatnam;

(c) the area, category and type and product-specific SEZ permitted at Visakhapatnam;

(d) whether Government have allowed prime agricultural land to be included in this SEZ;

(e) if so, the details of the SEZ, and

(f) whether public hearings would be held in Visakhapatnam on this SEZ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A Multi product SEZ set up by the Central Government has been functioning at Visakhapatnam since 1994. Approval has also been given to M/s APIIC for setting up a Multi Product Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Visakhapatnam over an area of 2309 hectares.

(d) and (e) First approval for the APIIC SEZ was given on 26th September, 2000 as per the policy prevalent at that time.

(f) The SEZ Policy prevalent at the relevant time and the SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 do not provide for holding a public hearing before giving clearances for setting up of SEZs.

SEZs in Goa

729. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Goa has proposed the establishment of Special Economic Zones in the State;

(b) if so, the number of such Zones proposed to be established;

(c) the details regarding the status of the proposal to establish SEZs in that State;

(d) the total area identified/acquired for the purpose and the location thereof; and

(e) the type of units proposed to be established in these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Central Government has so far granted formal approval for establishment of four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Goa. Details of the area, location and the type of units proposed to be established in these four SEZs are as follows:—